

献 辞

人文社会科学研究科教授 田 口 博 之

We would like to express hearty gratitude to Dr. Kitti Limskul for his sincere dedication to Saitama University. Dr. Kitti has reached his mandatory retirement age at the end of March 2020. He joined our Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Faculty of Economics in October 2015, after having worked as an associate professor for Chulalongkorn University for more than thirty years and as a Vice-Minister of Finance and Education, the Government of Thailand. His numerous contributions to the research and teaching of Saitama University have been so great that it would be difficult to list these in this limited space, however, I will just list a few highlights of his main contributions as follows.

Regarding his research, he has taken the initiative to promote an international research project on the “Mekong economy”, which has been running since 2015. As part of this, he has organized and managed international workshops on the Mekong Economy four times since 2016, hosted jointly by Saitama University and Chulalongkorn University. One of the outcomes of these workshops was the publication of the Special Issue of the Social Science Review (No. 156, published in March 2019) entitled “Mekong Economy”. He expertly edited this issue and also contributed to it by authoring the “Preface”, “Overviews of the Mekong Economy” and “The Economic Impact of the Official Development Assistance in the Mekong Economy: A Synthesis”. He has also devoted himself to academic research by applying computable general equilibrium models to various topics such as labor, trade, growth and income distribution in Thailand and the other ASEAN economies by obtaining the JSPS funding (KAKENHI). Based on this research, he has made presentations in academic conferences many times and published his papers in professional journals during his term.

As for his educational activities, he has dedicated himself to the Global Talent Program for undergraduate students, and has provided many opportunities for proactive discussions among the students on international hot issues such as trade conflicts and global warming. For the graduate school, he has accepted many foreign students in his seminar and lectures in econometrics, international economics and public policies, and has conducted hands-on trainings for data processing and econometric estimation by using several kinds of computing software. His contributions in this training have been great enough to enhance the students’ capacity to enrich their master theses and doctorate dissertations.

We do hope that Dr. Kitti will continue and develop his academic research even after his retirement, and expect that he will still be a resource for Saitama University in extending academic assistance and collaboration through our research and education activities. We have much to be thankful for to Dr. Kitti.